ACHP, Office of Federal Agency Programs

Attention: Don Klima, Director

1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 809

Washington, D.C. 20004

SUBJECT: COORDINATION OF NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

SECTION 106 REQUIREMENTS AND NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT REVIEW FOR THE PROPOSED AMERICAN CENTRIFUGE PLANT, PIKE

COUNTY, OHIO

Mr. Klima:

The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has received a license application from USEC, Inc. (USEC) for the construction, operation, and decommissioning of a gas centrifuge uranium enrichment facility known as the American Centrifuge Plant (ACP). The proposed facility is to be located at the Department of Energy (DOE) reservation in Piketon, Ohio. USEC's license application contained an Environmental Report (ER) that will be used to support the NRC's development of an environmental impact statement (EIS) as required by the NRC's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementing regulations. The proposed facility will use gas centrifuge technology to enrich the isotope uranium-235 in uranium hexaflouride (UF $_6$), up to 10-weight percent. The proposed ACP will have a design capacity of seven million separative work units. The forthcoming EIS will document the impacts associated with the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the proposed facility.

Two preliminary phase I archaeological surveys and one draft cultural resource report have been completed for the DOE reservation. Archaeological surveys and the cultural report results are discussed in section 3.8 of USEC's ER (enclosed). Historical and cultural resource impacts are discussed in section 4.8 of USEC's ER (enclosed).

As described in 36 CFR 800.8 we are notifying you that we intend to use the NRC's NEPA review process for Section 106 purposes. In using the NRC's NEPA process in lieu of the procedures set forth in 36 CFR 800.3 through 800.6 we will ensure the standards set forth in 800.8(c)(1) through 800.8(c)(5) are met.

We have previously notified the Ohio State Historical Preservation Officer of our intent to utilize the NRC's NEPA review process to comply with Section 106 requirements in a letter dated December 28, 2004 (enclosed). Additionally, we have solicited information from 17 Indian tribes and one local official in letters dated March 14, 2005 and March 18, 2005. Also, as part of our NEPA review process, we hosted a NEPA public scoping meeting on January 18, 2005, in Piketon, Ohio. At this meeting, we solicited information on cultural and historic properties. A full transcript of this meeting as well as all project related correspondence is available at the NRC's public web site: http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html.

We plan to a issue the draft EIS in September 2005 and will include you in our distribution. If you any questions or comments, or need additional information, please contact Ron Linton at (301) 415-7777.

Sincerely,

/RA/

B. Jennifer Davis, Section Chief
Environmental Review Section
Division of Waste Management
and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Docket No.: 70-7004

cc: USEC Service List

Enclosures:

1. Section 3.8 and Section 4.8 of USEC's Environmental Report (ML043550029)

2. December 28, 2004 letter to Ohio SHPO (ML043520095)

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